

The Moon

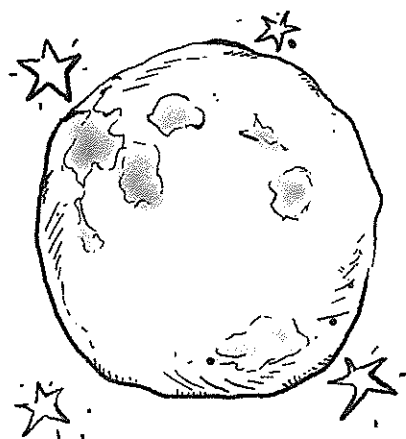
The Earth's natural satellite, the moon, is the closest heavenly body to us.

The moon as seen from Earth goes through a set of **phases**. At the new moon, the moon can't be seen at all. The next night, it is visible as a slim crescent. The amount of the moon that we can see grows larger and larger over successive nights.

The moon is said to be **waxing**, and this continues until the moon is **full**. Then the moon **wanes**, which means that the visible part grows smaller and smaller until we can't see any of it. This is the next new moon, and the cycle starts again.

The time between new moons is about 29 1/2 days. The period of one month was once called a month for this reason. Because the moon spins on its axis as it revolves around the Earth, we only ever see one face of it.

Although the moon can shine brightly, it produces no light of its own. It acts as a large mirror, reflecting the light from the sun. The apparent changes in the moon's shape are due to its journey around the Earth. When the moon is between Earth and the sun, hardly any light falls on the side we see, and that is the phase known as the new moon. When it is on the opposite side to the sun, we see the full moon.



A. Answer True or False.

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| 1. Earth is the only planet to have a moon. | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. On Earth, we only ever see one face of the moon. | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The moon does not create light, but only reflects it. | T <input type="checkbox"/> | F <input type="checkbox"/> |

B. Explain the difference between a solar eclipse and a lunar eclipse, using diagrams.